



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Virginia Employment Commission

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For Release: May 28, 2020

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Virginia's Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims

— Seasonally unadjusted weekly initial unemployment insurance claims
remained highly elevated but decreased by 12.2 percent during the latest filing week —

RICHMOND—The Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) announced that the total number of initial claims filed in the ten weeks from mid-March through the May 23, 2020 filing week were over 100,000 more than were filed during the Great Recession that lasted from December 2007 to June 2009.

For the filing week ending May 23, the figure for seasonally unadjusted initial claims in Virginia was 39,242. The latest claims figure was a decrease of 5,457 claimants from the previous week. The weekly total was the lowest since before the initial spike in unemployment insurance claims during the March 21 filing week.

For the most recent filing week, continued weeks claimed totaled 402,926, down 631 from the previous week but 384,563 higher than the 18,363 continued claims from the comparable week last year. The continued claims total is mainly comprised of those recent initial claimants who continued to file for unemployment insurance benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic. Continued claims during the May 23 filing week equaled 53% of all initial claims filed during the pandemic to this point. This percentage has trended downward in recent weeks.

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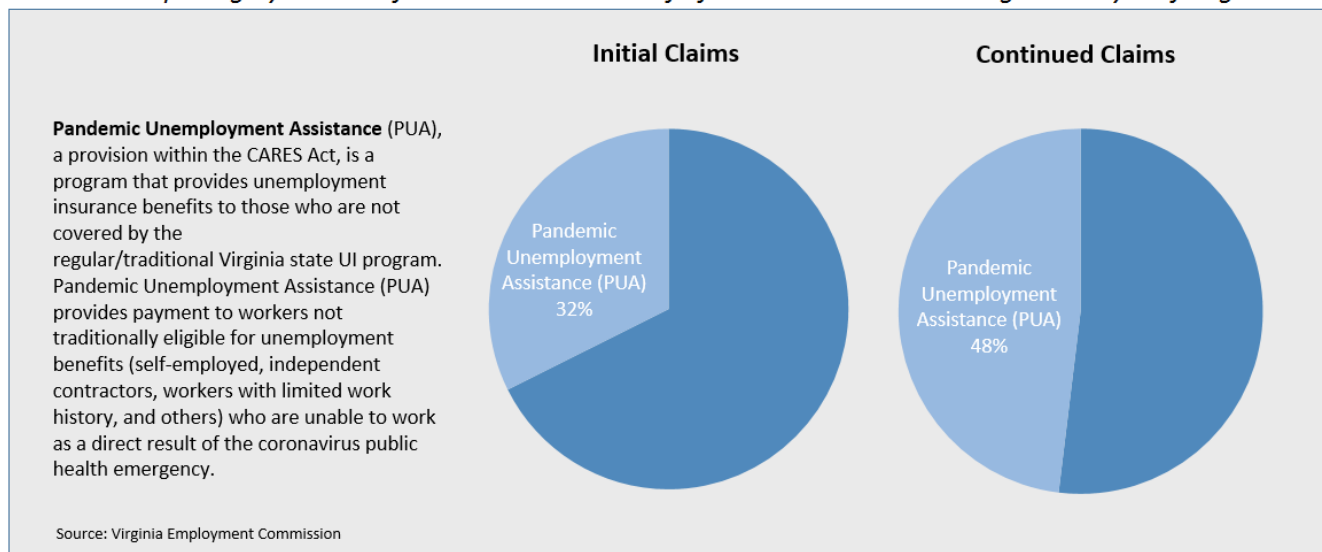
Toll Free: 1 (866) 832-2363
E-Mail: customerservice@vec.virginia.gov

VRC/TDD VA Relay 711
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Pandemic Unemployment claims accounted for 12,705 of the Initial Claims this week and 193,684 of the 402,926 continued claims were Pandemic Unemployment continued claims. [Pandemic Unemployment Assistance \(PUA\)](#), a provision within the CARES Act, is a program that provides unemployment insurance benefits to those who are not covered by the regular/traditional Virginia state UI program. It provides payment to workers not traditionally eligible for unemployment benefits (self-employed, independent contractors, workers with limited work history, and others) who are unable to work as a direct result of the coronavirus public health emergency. Nationwide, for the week ending May 23, 32 states reported 1,192,616 initial claims for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance.

Many Virginia Workers have Filed for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance

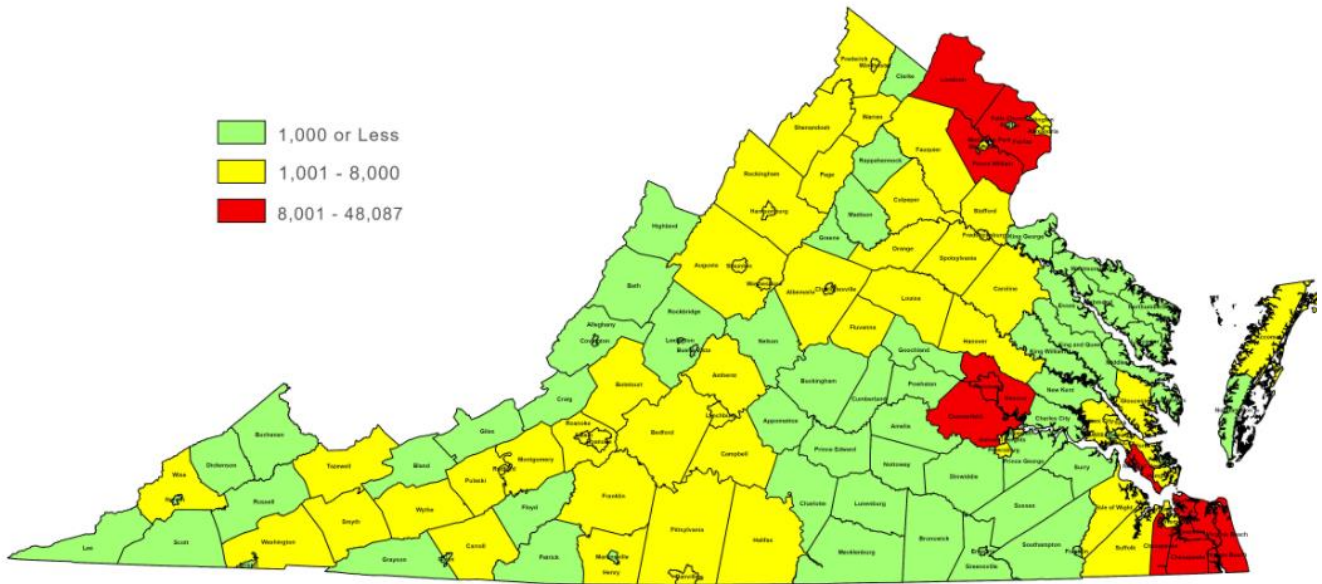
PUA made up roughly a third of initial claims and half of continued claims during the May 23 filing week.



For additional information on who is claiming unemployment insurance in Virginia, access the VEC's [U.I. claims data dashboard](https://www.vec.virginia.gov/ui-claims-dashboard) (<https://www.vec.virginia.gov/ui-claims-dashboard>) that is updated no later than the following Monday after the weekly claims press release.

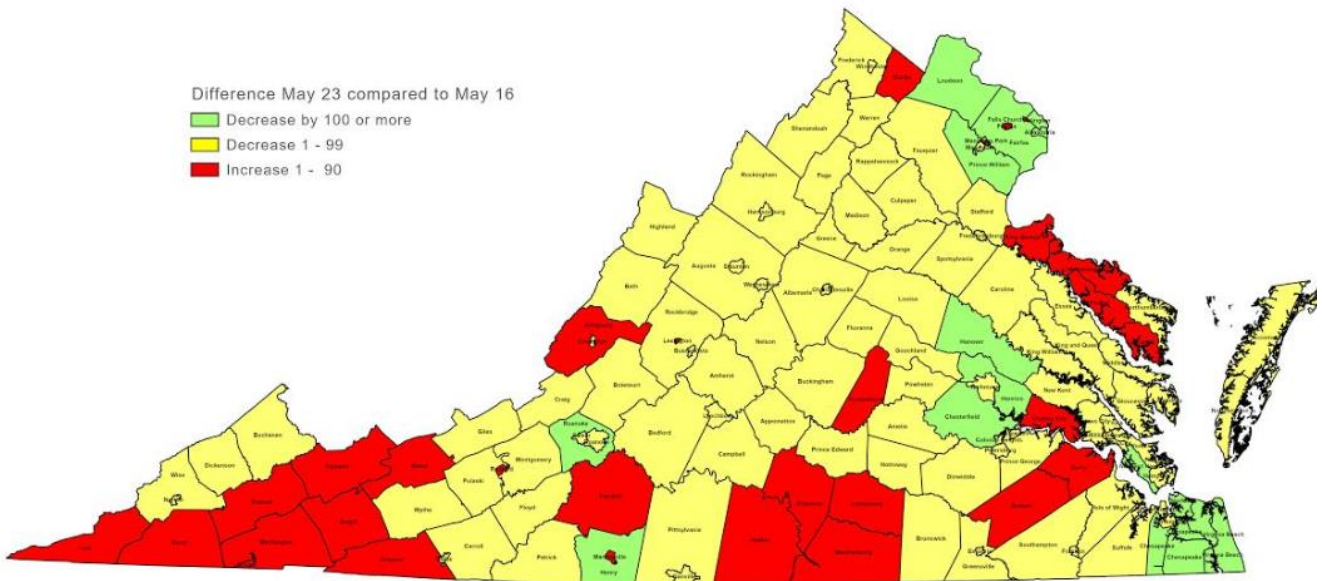
Nationwide, the number of seasonally adjusted initial claims totaled 2,123,000, a decrease of 323,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 8,000 from 2,438,000 to 2,446,000. The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 1,914,958 in the week ending May 23, a decrease of 266,682 (or -12.2 percent) from the previous week. Most states reported less than 100,000 claims during the most recent filing week, except for the largest five in terms of numbers of filings. Looking at advance-issue, seasonally unadjusted numbers, the top five largest numbers of initial claims for the week ending May 23 were in California, New York, Florida, Georgia, and Texas.

Continued Unemployment Insurance Claimants by County and City
Week Ending May 23, 2020



Map produced by Virginia Employment Commission, Economic Information & Analytics Division, May 2020

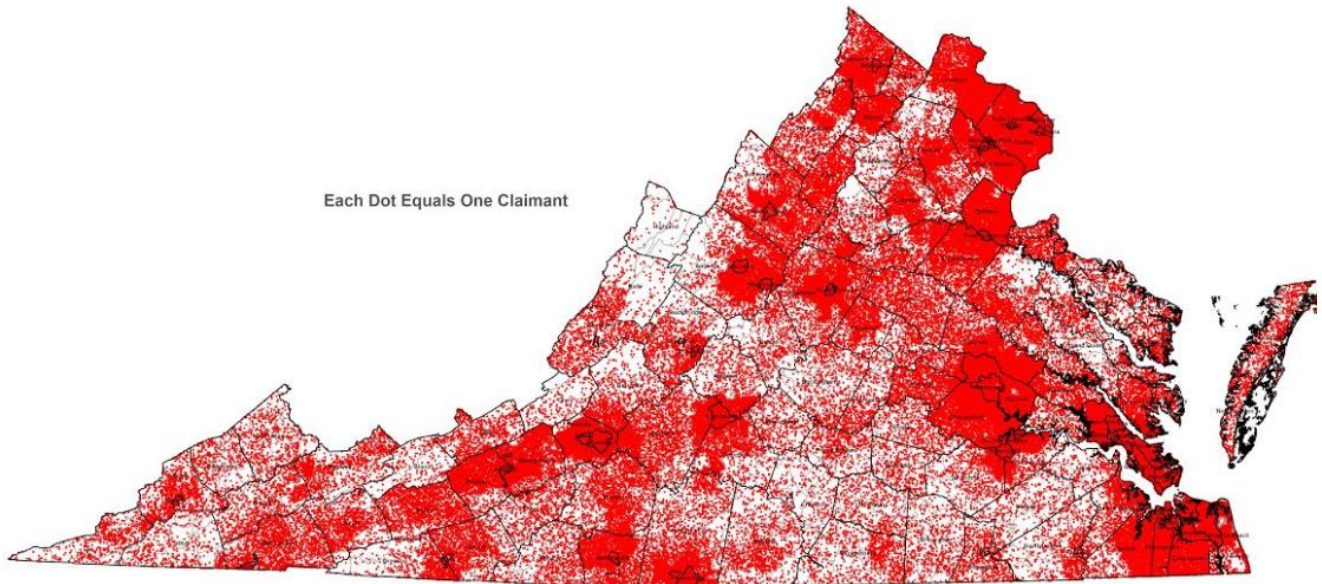
Initial Unemployment Insurance Claimants by County and City
Weeks Ending May 23, 2020 Over May 16, 2020 Change



Map produced by Virginia Employment Commission, Economic Information & Analytics Division, May 2020

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Continued Unemployment Insurance Claimants Week Ending May 23, 2020

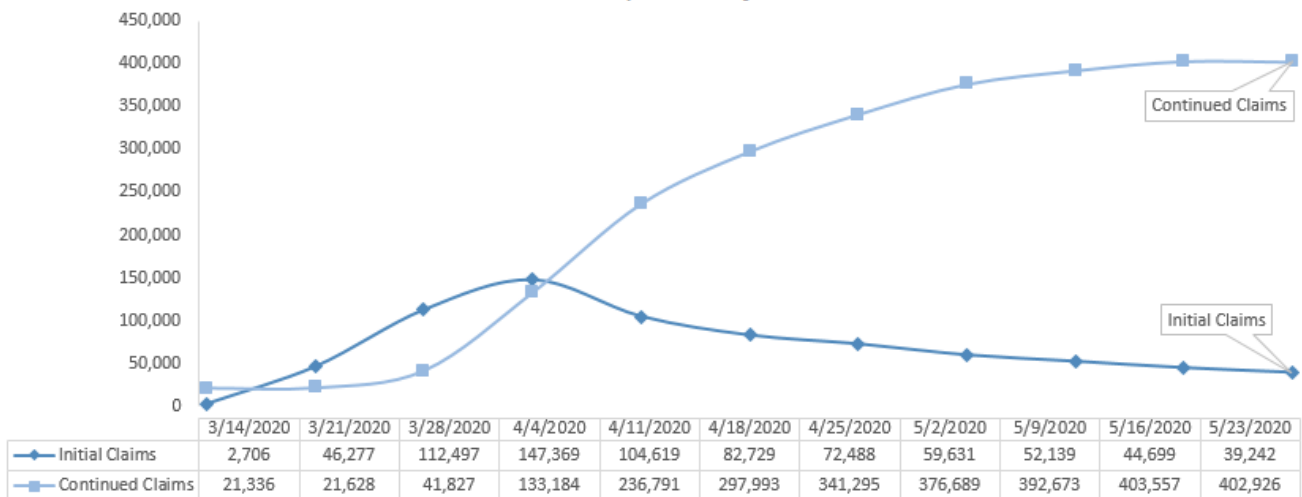


Continued Unemployment Claims data were summed by zip code area. The dots do not show precise locations within the zip code area.

Map produced by Virginia Employment Commission, Economic Information & Analytics Division, May 2020

Virginia Weekly Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

March 14 - May 23, 2020 Filing Weeks



Source: The Virginia Employment Commission. Not seasonally adjusted.